



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 20, 2006

CONTACT: Adam Liegeot, 860-524-7313
Adam.Liegeot@ct.gov

Governor Rell Announces Farm Reinvestment Grants

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced state investments in agriculture totaling \$488,390 to strengthen the economic viability of many Connecticut farms. Thirteen agricultural producers have been awarded the matching grants that will expand or improve existing farms in accordance with a ten-year business plan.

“We want to do all we can to help our agriculture industry be as strong as it can be,” Governor Rell said. “As I have said on many occasions, this is a multi-million dollar industry. It is a significant economic driver for Connecticut. That is why we need to make significant long-term investments now in order to retain and grow agricultural jobs in the future.

“These grants will provide seed money to enhance existing agricultural operations throughout the state. Just as important is the spark these grants will provide to our local and state economies. We continue to ask farm owners what we can do to help them grow jobs, and these grants are just one example of how the state is responding to their needs.”

Approved projects include expansion of farms through building of greenhouses, dairy and beef facilities, equine enterprises, processing facilities and wineries. The grants were awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and a match must be supplied by the applicant. The Department of Agriculture’s share of the budget is capped at \$40,000 in matching funds.

Farm Reinvestment Grant Projects Receiving Funding:

- **Carriage Stone Farm, Northford**, Ken and Carol Neubig. Horse boarding and tack facility, \$40,000.
- **Sunset Meadow Farm, Goshen**, George and Judy Motel. Wine production facility, \$40,000.
- **Ace Begonias, Woodbridge**, Paul Rieur. New greenhouses, \$40,000.
- **Pell Farms, Somers**, Roger Pell. Processing facility for fruits and vegetables, \$40,000.
- **Meeting House Hill Farm, North Franklin**, Thomas Shakun. Horse boarding facility, \$40,000.

STATE CAPITOL, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
TEL: (860) 566-4840, FAX: (860) 524-7396
www.ct.gov/governor

- **Sprucedale Gardens, Woodstock**, Paul & Joyce Larson. New greenhouse, \$40,000.
- **Full Circle Farm, Manchester**, Dianne Kuzmickas. Indoor horse arena, \$40,000.
- **DeCarli Farm, Ellington**, Daryl Ann DeCarli. Indoor riding facility, \$40,000.
- **Square A Farm, Lebanon**, Shawn McGillicuddy. Hay storage barn, \$40,000.
- **Wild Carrot Farm, Canton**, Marc Palladino. New greenhouse, \$8,390.
- **Sunny Border Nurseries, Kensington**, Mark Lavianna. New greenhouses, \$40,000.
- **Hurlburt Farm & Forestry, West Cornwall**, Bill Hurlburt. Beef barn, \$40,000.
- **Whimsy Brook Farm, Redding**, Candace Benyei. Horse arena and manure storage facility, \$40,000.

The grantees will have up to one year to complete their project, according to the terms of their contract.

“This money, which is to be used only for existing farms, will help to strengthen and enhance their production capabilities, thus ensuring the sustainability of these farming enterprises in the future” said F. Philip Prelli, Connecticut Commissioner of Agriculture.

Connecticut’s efforts have resulted in the preservation of 222 farms with 31,025 acres of farmland. In the past two years alone, \$20 million in state bonding has been authorized for this purpose.

In August, Governor Rell announced that U.S. Department of Agriculture agreed to her request for natural disaster designation which will provide federal low-interest loans to Connecticut farmers who suffered severe crop losses from the heavy rains and cools temperatures this spring and summer.

In July, Governor Rell announced a new program to provide direct financial aid to Connecticut’s struggling dairy farmers. Through the Dairy Farm Reinforcement Program, the Department of Agriculture will oversee a \$2 million fund that will provide one-time support payments to eligible dairy farmers to offset market cost inequities that result from the federally regulated milk price. In addition, the Department of Economic and Community Development will provide \$2 million in low-interest loans for energy conservation, machinery and equipment, and farm diversification. Governor Rell also directed the state’s Milk Regulation Board to develop and propose legislation to be introduced during the next legislative session that will provide for the long-term viability of Connecticut’s dairy farmers.